

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-19 have been amended. Claims 20-22 have been canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional application, pursuant to a requirement for restriction levied on January 3, 2005 and not withdrawn in the outstanding Office Action. New claims 23-57 have been added. These claims are variations of previously examined claims 1-19 and are fully supported by the originally filed specification. Newly added independent claim 23 contains certain of the limitations of claim 1; it further specifies that the crossing strands are positioned transversely with respect to the longitudinal strands. Newly added independent claim 34 contains certain of the limitations of claim 1 but also includes no crossing strands. Finally, newly added claim 46 contains certain of the limitations of claim 1 but includes no crossing strands and points out that the adhesive may be applied to either the first or second side of the load restraining strip. The newly added dependent claims are similar in scope to the previous claims dependent from claim 1.

Objections to the Drawings

Figure 1 has been amended to include a prior art label; Figure 7 has been amended to include the correct reference numbers. All objections should be satisfied by these amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the outstanding Office Action original claims 1 – 19 initially stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner's comments and suggestions as set forth in paragraph 7 of the Office Action have been incorporated into the claims as amended above. These amendments are merely clarifications and have not been submitted as substantive limitations to overcome prior art. For example, consistent terminology now appears throughout the claims. (Now, for example, "side" appears consistently replacing some instances of "surface") Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are believed to be obviated. Withdrawal of the rejections is solicited.

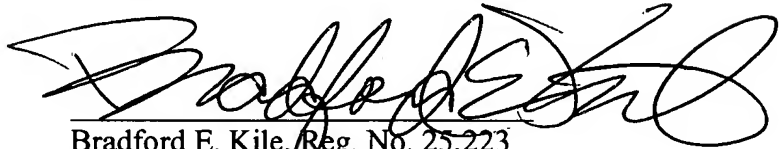
Provisional Double Patenting

Although the Double Patenting rejection of the present claims is traversed, in the event that the related copending Application No. 10/730,040 issues before the subject application, Applicant will file a terminal disclaimer in order to overcome the provisional double patenting rejection.

With entry of the above amendments it is believed that the entire application is now in clear condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would be either necessary or desirable, kindly call the undersigned at the number

indicated. If additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to the undersigned's deposit account number 11-0853.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradford E. Kile', written over a horizontal line.

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Appendix: Amended Figures 1 and 7

Amendments to the Drawings

Replacement drawings have been prepared by a patent draftsman as corrected according to the Examiner's comments and suggestions in Paragraph 4. These formal drawings are attached hereto as an Appendix. In particular, corrections have been made to Figures 1 and 7.